

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

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Kenji ENDO

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GROUP ART UNIT: Not yet Assigned

SERIAL NO: New Divisional Application : EXAMINER:

Unknown

FILED: Herewith

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FOR: SHEET FEEDING  
DEVICE FOR AN IMAGE  
FORMING APPARATUS

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, above "Background of the Invention," please insert the following:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications:

This application is a divisional application of, and claims priority to, Serial Number 09/492,272 filed January 27, 2000 and claims priority to Japanese Application No. JP 11-51542 filed February 26, 1999. The entire contents of the parent application and the Japanese application are hereby incorporated herein by reference. --

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-22 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-14 canceled and the specification amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C §120 to, Serial No. 09/492,272 ("the parent application").

The present preliminary amendment amends the specification to incorporate the parent application by reference as suggested by The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the preliminary amendment amends the claims to cancel Claims 1-14, which were elected for prosecution in the parent application.

Finally, Applicants wish to note that since the present application is a Divisional application under 35 U.S.C. §121, pursuant to that section, a patent issuing on the parent application shall not be used as a reference in the Patent and Trademark Office against the claims of this application.<sup>2</sup>

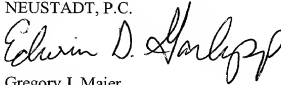
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<sup>1</sup>See M.P.E.P. §201.06(c) Incorporation By Reference.

<sup>2</sup>See 35 U.S.C. §121 and M.P.E.P. §804.01.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 15-22 is believed to be in order,  
and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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